

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method usable with a computer, comprising:
2 in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, coupling a load to
3 conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the supply voltage
4 plane not receiving power from a power resource of the computer in response to the
5 predetermined sleep state; and
6 in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the
7 predetermined sleep state, decoupling the load so that the load does not conduct current from
8 the supply voltage plane to ground.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

3 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the
4 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

5 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a
6 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

7 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states
8 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling controls a voltage level on the
2 supply voltage plane produced by a powered peripheral.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling comprises activating a switch to
2 establish a current path between the supply voltage plane and ground.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the decoupling comprises deactivating a
2 switch to remove a current path between the supply voltage and ground.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 in response to the computer being in said predetermined state other than the
3 predetermined sleep state, coupling the power resource to the supply voltage plane.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage
2 regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in
3 said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

1 11. A computer comprising:
2 a supply voltage plane;
3 a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;
4 a load; and
5 a circuit to:
6 in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, couple the
7 load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the supply
8 voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the predetermined
9 sleep state, and
10 in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the
11 predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current from
12 the supply voltage plane to ground.

1 12. The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit comprises:
2 a switch.

1 13. The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

1 14. The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

1 15. The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a
2 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

1 16. The computer of claim 15, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states
2 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 17. The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct
2 current to control a voltage level on the supply voltage plane produced by a powered
3 peripheral to the computer.

1 18. The computer of claim 11, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage
2 regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in
3 said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

4 19. A system comprising:

5 a computer comprising:

6 a supply voltage plane;

7 a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;

8 a load; and

9 a circuit to:

10 in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state,
11 couple the load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the
12 supply voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the
13 predetermined sleep state, and

14 in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than
15 the predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current
from the supply voltage supply plane to ground; and

 a powered peripheral coupled to the computer and capable of producing a back-driven
voltage on the supply voltage plane.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the circuit comprises:
2 a switch.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

1 22. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

1 23. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a
2 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

1 24. The system of claim 19, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states
2 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct
2 current to control a level of the voltage produced by the powered peripheral.

1 26. The system of claim 19, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage
2 regulator.